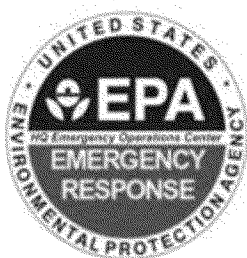


From: Eoc, Epahq
Sent: Wed 1/22/2014 9:10:22 PM
Subject: EOC Spot Report: Chemical Spill, Charleston WV – Update #17
R3 Chemical Spill Charleston WV 1 22 14 Update 17.docx

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EOC Spot Report: Chemical Spill, Charleston WV – Update #17

US Environmental Protection Agency

Report as of 16:00 January 22, 2014

Overview: On January 10, the President approved an Emergency Declaration for the State of West Virginia after a chemical, 4-methylcyclohexanemethanol, (MCHM) leaked at a Freedom Industries chemical plant and into the Elk River in Charleston, WV. The spill occurred near the Kanawha Valley Water Treatment Plant which detected the chemical even after an increased carbon treatment effort was put in place. Freedom Industries is working to clean up the spill at the facility and in the river.

State, Local and other Federal Agency Actions: West Virginia water authorities issued a “Do Not Use Water Notice” for 10 counties and the President’s Emergency Declaration covers eight counties. West Virginia American Water Company (WVAWC) customers were told not to use tap water for drinking, cooking, washing, or bathing. Water could be used for toilets and fire emergencies. When the incident originally occurred, it contaminated drinking water for 300,000 people.

Region 3 OSCs reported that the facility continues to monitor the boom along the river edge to ensure the ice does not build up. The facility’s contractor has teams of two rotating every 45 minutes to inspect the boom condition and ice buildup. Ice has begun to form and the teams have been instructed to break the ice located between the river bank and boom.

There has been trouble with freezing in the tubes used for pumping out the sumps around the facility. Most of the sumps are frozen at this point, but water is still running on the outside of the secondary containment. The remediation contractor’s, CEC, primary goal for 1/22 is to locate the source of the water and divert it around the facility property. WVDEP met with the facility about the remediation plan and locations for future sampling.

On 1/21, Freedom Industries reported to EPA that another material (PPH- a proprietary mixture of polyglycol ethers) was part of the chemical release that occurred on 1/9/14. PPH represented a relatively small percentage (approximately 5%) of the total volume in the tank. According to CDC/ATSDR, the reported toxicity of this material appears to be lower than the toxicity of MCHM, based on the Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) provided by the manufacturer. CDC has prepared a public information statement addressing any health concerns of PPH and added the information to their WV chemical release webpage.

<http://emergency.cdc.gov/chemical/MCHM/westvirginia2014/index.asp>

The WV Emergency Operations Center transitioned to a Partial Activation on 1/19. The FEMA National Watch Center is at Normal Operations (Watch/Steady State). The FEMA Region III Regional Response Coordination Center remains at Level III (Partial Activation). An Interim Operating Facility is operational in Charleston, with a Federal Coordinating Officer, a Type-III Incident Management Assistance Team, and a FEMA Liaison in place.

EPA Action: EPA Region 3 continues to monitor and provide oversight of facility activities at the Freedom Industries tank farm site and the Poca staging facility. EPA continues to coordinate with WVDEP and WVAWC. Region 4 OSC demobilized from the site on 1/20 but will

continue to coordinate with ORSANCO and Regions 3 and 5.

Media Interest: High

<http://www.wvgazette.com/News/201401210072>

<http://www.wvgazette.com/News/201401210115>

<http://www.wvgazette.com/News/201401210195>

<http://www.wvgazette.com/News/201401210034>

<http://www.wvgazette.com/News/201401220031>

<http://www.wvgazette.com/News/201401220039>

<http://www.miamiherald.com/2014/01/22/3885315/co-behind-wva-chemical-spill-up.html>

The HQ EOC will continue to monitor and provide updates as needed.

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